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IN THE CLAIMS:

The following are currently pending claims and proposed amendments to claims 21-50. Claims 21, 31, and 41 have been amended. (All claims listed).

1-20. (Canceled).

1 21. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a whois database, comprising:
2 extracting a plurality of unique identifiers from an audit file, each unique identifier
3 corresponding to a modified or deleted domain name record within a registrar database; and
4 for each unique identifier:
5 determining whether a first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record that corresponds
6 to the unique identifier exists within the registrar database,
7 if the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record exists, retrieving the first
8 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record from the registrar database,
9 determining whether a second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record that
10 corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the whois database,
11 if the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record exists, retrieving the second
12 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record from the whois database,
13 comparing the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record to the second
14 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record, and
15 updating the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record, within the whois
16 database, based on the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record.

1 22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 if the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record does not exist, deleting the second
3 domain name record from the whois database.

1 23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 if the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record does not exist, adding the first
3 domain name record to the whois database.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 discarding duplicate unique identifiers from the plurality of unique identifiers.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the modified or deleted domain
2 name record consists of an added domain name record, a deleted domain name record and a
3 changed domain name record.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the audit file includes an indicator
2 associated with each unique identifier, the indicator consisting of an added indicator, a deleted
3 indicator and changed indicator.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the audit file includes modified
2 domain name information associated with each unique identifier.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of unique identifiers is
2 associated with a time period.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 tagging the audit file to identify previously extracted unique identifiers.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the whois database is a copy of the
2 registrar database.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium including instructions adapted to be
2 executed by a processor to perform a method for maintaining a whois database, the method
3 comprising:

4 extracting a plurality of unique identifiers from an audit file, each unique identifier
5 corresponding to a modified or deleted domain name record within a registrar database; and
6 for each unique identifier:

7 determining whether a first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record that corresponds
8 to the unique identifier exists within the registrar database,

9 if the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record exists, retrieving the first
10 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record from the registrar database,

11 determining whether a second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record that
12 corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the whois database,

13 if the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record exists, retrieving the second
14 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record from the whois database,

15 comparing the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record to the second
16 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record, and
17 updating the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record, within the whois
18 database, based on the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record.

1 32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method
2 further comprises:

3 if the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record does not exist, deleting the second domain
4 name record from the whois database.

1 33. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method
2 further comprises:

3 if the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record does not exist, adding the first domain
4 name record to the whois database.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method
2 further comprises:

3 discarding duplicate unique identifiers from the plurality of unique identifiers.

1 35. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the modified or
2 deleted domain name record consists of an added domain name record, a deleted domain name
3 record and a changed domain name record.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the audit file
2 includes an indicator associated with each unique identifier, the indicator consisting of an added
3 indicator, a deleted indicator and changed indicator.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the audit file
2 includes modified domain name information associated with each unique identifier.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the plurality of
2 unique identifiers is associated with a time period.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method
2 further comprises:
3 tagging the audit file to identify previously extracted unique identifiers.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the whois
2 database is a copy of the registrar database.

1 41. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
2 a network;
3 a registrar computer, coupled to the network, including a registrar database having a
4 plurality of domain name records and an audit file having a plurality of unique identifiers, each
5 unique identifier corresponding to a modified or deleted domain name record within the registrar
6 database; and

7 a whois computer, coupled to the network, including a processor and a memory coupled
8 to the processor, the memory including a whois database having a plurality of domain name
9 records and instructions adapted to be executed by the processor to perform a method, the
10 method comprising:

11 extracting the plurality of unique identifiers from the audit file; and

12 for each unique identifier:

13 determining whether a first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record that corresponds
14 to the unique identifier exists within the registrar database,

15 if the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record exists, retrieving the first
16 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record from the registrar database,

17 determining whether a second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record that
18 corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the whois database,

19 if the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record exists, retrieving the second
20 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record from the whois database,

21 comparing the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record to the second
22 ~~corresponding~~ domain name record, and

23 updating the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record, within the whois
24 database, based on the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record.

1 42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:

2 if the first ~~corresponding~~ domain name record does not exist, deleting the second domain
3 name record from the whois database.

1 43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:
2 if the second ~~corresponding~~ domain name record does not exist, adding the first domain
3 name record to the whois database.

1 44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:
2 discarding duplicate unique identifiers from the plurality of unique identifiers.

1 45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the modified or deleted domain name
2 record consists of an added domain name record, a deleted domain name record and a changed
3 domain name record.

1 46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the audit file includes an indicator
2 associated with each unique identifier, the indicator consisting of an added indicator, a deleted
3 indicator and changed indicator.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises,
2 wherein the audit file includes modified domain name information associated with each unique
3 identifier.

1 48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises,
2 wherein the plurality of unique identifiers is associated with a time period.

1 49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:
2 tagging the audit file to identify previously extracted unique identifiers.

1 50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the whois database is a copy of the
2 registrar database.